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Forest
Service



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Barcelona

Minerals Exploration Project

Scoping Document

Austin-Tonopah Ranger District
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Nye County, Nevada

Responsible Official: Lance Brown
District Ranger

For Information Contact: Gregory Van Oosbree
District Geologist

Phone: 775-482-7881

Email: gvanoosbree@fs.fed.us



Barcelona Minerals Exploration Project Scoping Document

The Austin-Tonopah Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is initiating scoping and welcomes your comments on the proposed Barcelona Minerals Exploration Project (Plan of Operations #03-17-01) which is located on both National Forest System lands within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest as well as patented land. The responsible official for the Barcelona Minerals Exploration Project is Lance Brown, Austin Tonopah District Ranger.

The Forest Service (FS) has tentatively determined that this proposed activity may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 220). A proposed action may be categorically excluded only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action and the proposed action is within a category listed in section 31.12 or 32.2 of FSH 1909.15. This proposed action falls within section 32.2(8) (see 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8)) –

(8) Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.

In the development and preparation of the Project, the participation of interested persons, state and local governments, and Native American tribes is encouraged at this time and throughout the process prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. The Project Plan of Operations can be reviewed at the Tonopah Ranger Office during normal business hours. Further information is also available from Gregory Van Oosbree District Geologist at (775) 482-7881.

Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of and need for the Proposed Action is to identify, locate, and delineate mineral deposits, specifically by exploration drilling, in Nevada on National Forest System (NFS) lands and patented land. The statutory right of Barcelona Exploration LLC to explore for mineral resources on federally administered lands is recognized in the General Mining Law of 1872, and is consistent with the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 (IV-50)¹. Surface management regulations (36 CFR part 228)² require that all mineral exploration, development, and operations activities be conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impacts on National Forest surface resources (36 CFR 228.8).

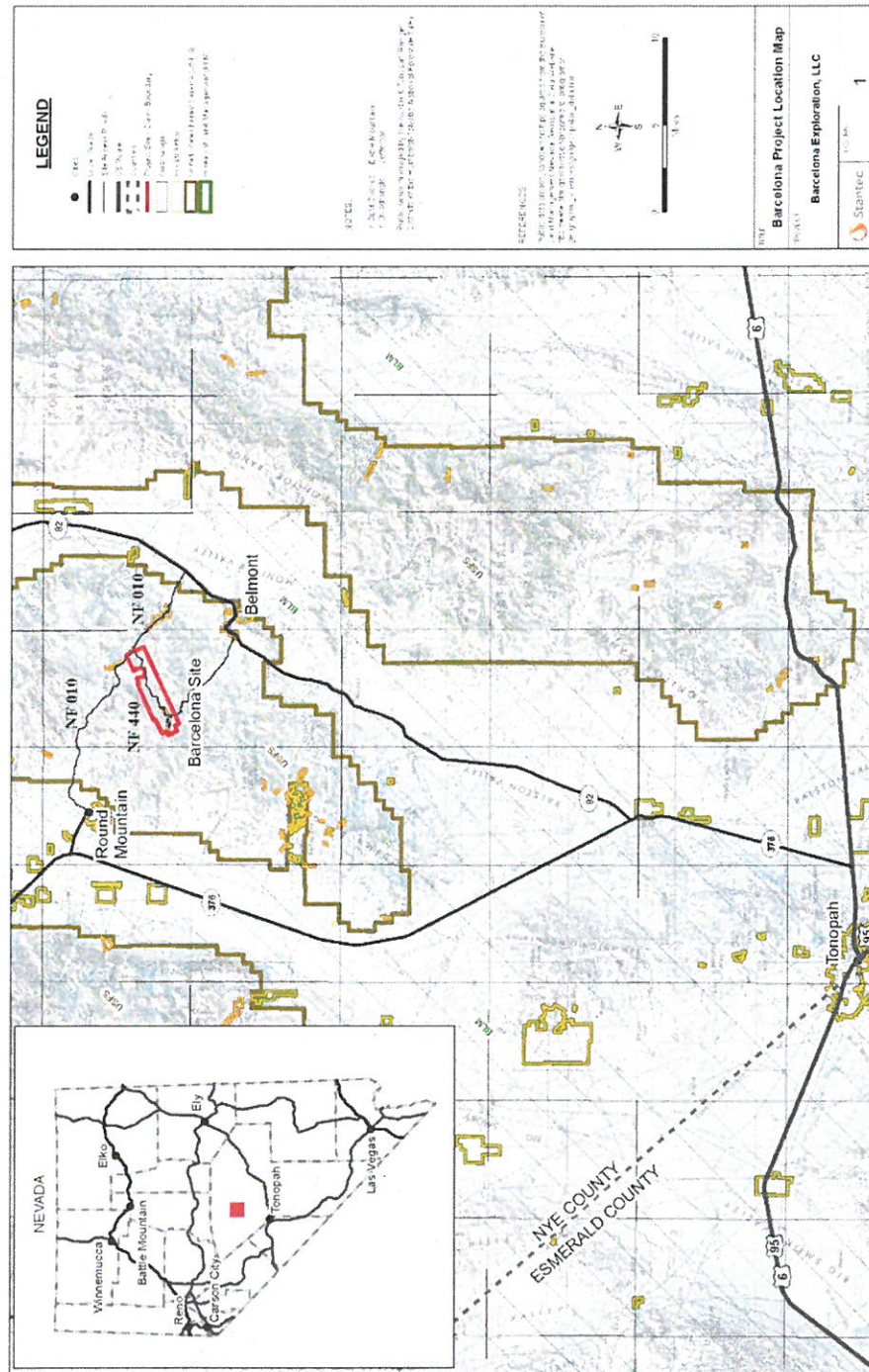
¹ 1986 Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan available at http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5143054.pdf

² 36 CFR 228 available at http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/oged/includes/leasing_regs_36cfr228.pdf

Project Location

The proposed project is located north of Belmont, NV on both private land and land administered by the FS in Section 6, Township 9 North, Range 45 East (T9N, R45E) and Sections 01 and 12, Township 9 North, Range 44½ East (T9N, R44½ E) Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The project will be accessed from SR 82 through Belmont, NV and FS Roads 010 and NF-440 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map.



Proposed Action Summary

The action proposed is to collect samples of rock for mineral and chemical analysis from below the ground surface by means of boreholes using truck-mounted, core drill rigs. Up to 3 vertical or angled boreholes will be drilled on 11 constructed drill pads, with holes averaging 1,150 ft. in depth. Seven drill pad sites are located on land administered by the FS and 4 sites will be located on patented (private) mining claims. Various other equipment will be used in support of preparation, drilling, and reclamation work.

It is anticipated that the project will begin during August 2018. The proposed drill sites will be accessed via existing roads and temporarily constructed roads. Maintenance of existing FS roads will be performed as needed for equipment access. The total estimated surface disturbance associated with the proposed exploration project will be up to 1.96 acres, consisting of 1.05 acres of surface disturbance on land administered by the FS and 0.91 acres on patented mining claims. No roadless or wilderness areas are involved in this proposal.

Reclamation will be completed to the standards described in 36 CFR 228.8(g). Upon completion of drilling, all boreholes would be plugged and abandoned so as to protect ground water per State of Nevada standards (as specified in Nevada Code NAC 534.420(6) or 534.4371(2) b). Boreholes would be plugged before the drill rig moves to the next hole. Concurrent reclamation of drill sites will be completed to the extent practicable during operations. Final reclamation would consist of filling-in and recontouring all disturbed areas created in support of the project followed by seeding with a FS approved native weed-free seed mixture.

HOW TO COMMENT

Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions for this project should be sent to Lance Brown, Austin-Tonopah District Ranger at P.O. Box 130, Austin, NV 89310; phone 775-964-2671 fax (775) 482-3053; or you may hand-deliver your comments during normal business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays to 1400 S. Erie Main Street Tonopah, NV 89049.

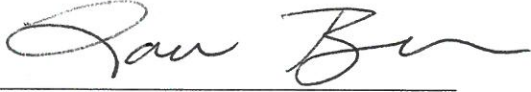
Electronic comments should be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to this email address: comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-austin-tonopah@fs.fed.us.

Please use the term "Barcelona Exploration Project" in the subject line of your email. To be most effective, the Forest Service should receive comments no later than **March 9th, 2018**. If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this letter will be made available to the public. This includes names, addresses and any other information provided with your comments.

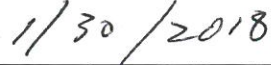
Comments, names, and contact information of those who comment will be part of the public record for this project. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, the District will not be able to send further project information to anonymous commenters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the environmental analysis process or this Project, please contact Greg Van Oosbree District Geologist at (775) 482-7881 (email address: gvanoosbree@fs.fed.us).



Lance Brown
Austin-Tonopah District Ranger



Date

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